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› 2020-21 financial year

✓ Latest release

Personal Income in Australia

Regional data on the number of income earners, amounts received, and the distribution of income

Reference period 2020-21 financial year

Released 6/12/2023

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Key statistics

During 2020-21:

- Total personal income was \$1.04 trillion
- Median personal income was \$54,890, up 4.9% on 2019-20
- Employee income comprised 87.5% of total personal income

Personal Income in Australia (PIA), along with [Jobs in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/jobs-australia/latest-release\)](#) (JIA), is one of two releases

containing data from the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED). The [Jobs and Income of Employed Persons, 2020-21 \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/jobs-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/jobs-australia) TableBuilder product is intended for release next year and contains more detailed data from the LEED.

Geography

The latest version of the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) Edition 3 \(/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/latest-release\)](/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/latest-release) has been implemented in this release, with data from 2016-17 onwards available on the new ASGS. Data on the previous version of ASGS is available in previous releases of Personal Income in Australia.

Revisions

Data from 2016-17 to 2019-20 has been reprocessed which has resulted in small differences to the historical data.

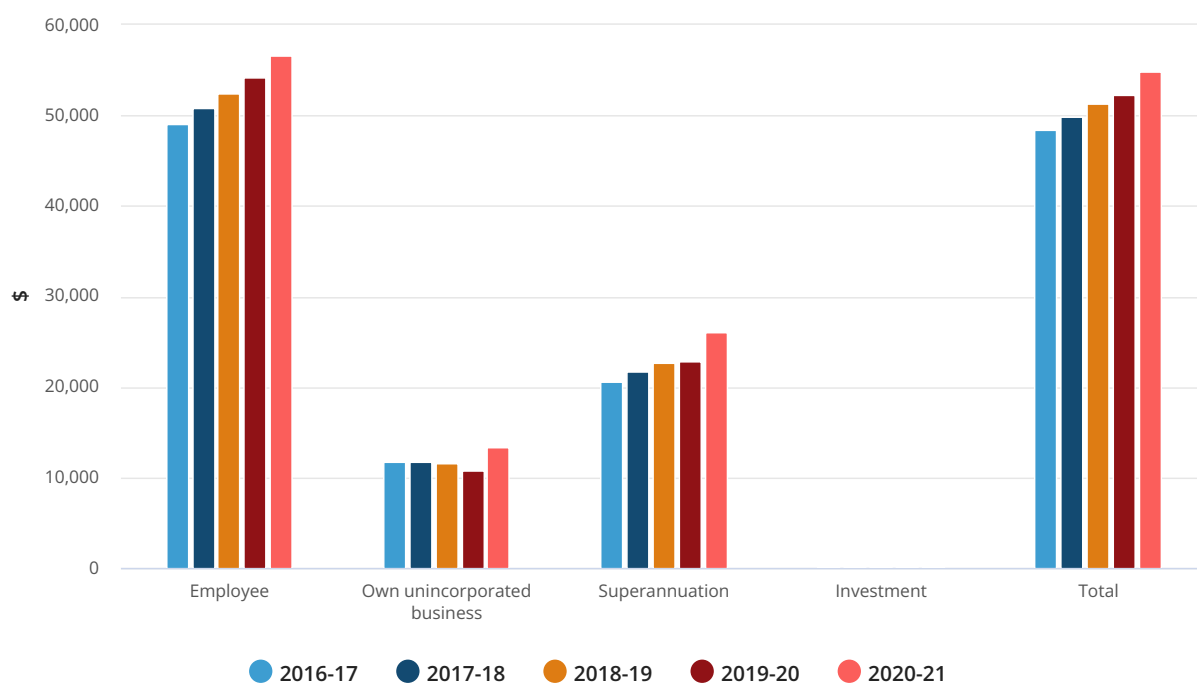
Guide to labour statistics

To learn more about our different labour measures, their purpose and how to use them, see our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide) (similar to income) data.

Sources of personal income

- For most people (77.7%), employee income was the main source of income, up slightly from 77.5% in 2019-20.
- Median employee income was highest (\$56,547, a 4.4% increase on the previous year), followed by superannuation income (\$25,983, a 13.8% increase on the previous year).
- Only 1.5% of people received superannuation income as their main source of income, down slightly from 1.6% in the previous year.

Graph 1 - Median personal income by source



State and territory

- The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest median total income (\$71,093) and Tasmania the lowest (\$50,130)
- New South Wales recorded the fastest growth rate since 2016-17 (14%) and South Australia the slowest (11.4%)
- Of all the states and territories, the top 1% of earners received the greatest share of the state's total personal income in New South Wales (11.2%)

Distribution indicators for total personal income

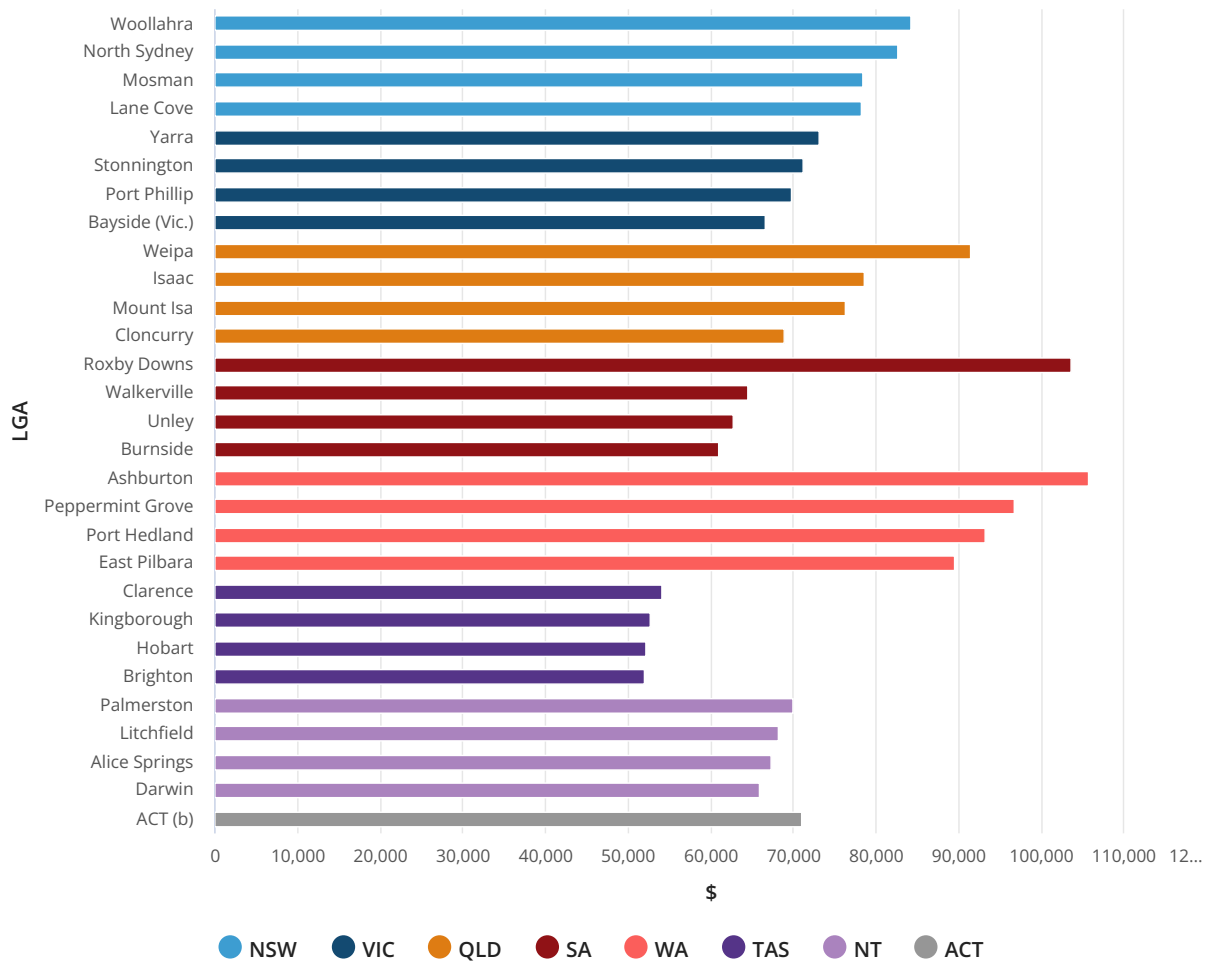
	Median total income	Median total income growth rate		Income Share		
	2020-21	Last year	Since 2016-17	Top 1% earners	Top 5% earners	Top 10% earners
Australia	\$54,890	4.9%	12.8%	9.8%	22.5%	33.4%
New South Wales	\$55,854	5.7%	14.0%	11.2%	24.3%	35.2%
Victoria	\$54,088	3.9%	12.5%	9.8%	22.5%	33.5%
Queensland	\$53,643	4.8%	12.2%	8.4%	20.6%	31.6%
South Australia	\$52,767	4.6%	11.4%	8.0%	20.1%	30.7%
Western Australia	\$58,591	6.1%	13.3%	9.5%	21.9%	32.9%
Tasmania	\$50,130	4.6%	11.6%	7.5%	19.5%	30.1%
Northern Territory	\$65,906	6.3%	12.0%	6.0%	16.9%	27.1%
Australian Capital Territory	\$71,093	4.1%	12.6%	6.9%	18.6%	28.9%

Local Government Areas

In 2020-21, the Local Government Areas with the highest median total income in Australia were:

- Ashburton in Western Australia (\$105,655)
- Roxby Downs in South Australia (\$103,653)
- Peppermint Grove in Western Australia (\$96,684)

Graph 2: Local Government Areas with the highest median total income(a)



- a. Excludes Local Government Areas with less than 1,000 earners.
- b. The Australian Capital Territory has no separate local governments.

Income inequality

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) provides the most comprehensive source of

information for calculating Gini coefficients and measuring income inequality. As such, estimates from [Household Income and Wealth, Australia \(/statistics/economy/finance/household-income-and-wealth-australia/latest-release\)](#) should be used wherever possible, particularly at the Australia, State and Territory, and Greater Capital City Statistical Area levels. Gini coefficients from Personal Income in Australia should be considered complementary information, which provide insights for lower geographic levels. For more information about Gini coefficients, see the [Methodology \(/methodologies/personal-income-australia-methodology/2020-21\)](#).

The Gini coefficient is a summary indicator, usually between 0 and 1 that indicates the degree of inequality among total incomes within a region. A value of 0 indicates that all earners reported the same amount of income in that region. Higher values represent relatively higher levels of income inequality. The income data reported in this release is market income and therefore can be negative. This is mainly due to losses for Owner Managers of Unincorporated Enterprises (OMUEs). For areas with large numbers of OMUEs reporting negative incomes, the Gini coefficients can exceed 1.

In 2020-21, the following Local Government Areas had the lowest income inequality (the lowest Gini coefficients) in their respective State/Territory:

- Roxby Downs in South Australia (0.354)
- Palmerston in Northern Territory (0.360)
- Ashburton in Western Australia (0.372)

The highest income inequality (the highest Gini coefficients) in their respective State/Territory was:

- Gwydir in New South Wales (0.910)
- Cleve in South Australia (0.841)
- Cottesloe in Western Australia (0.781)

Local government areas with the lowest Gini coefficients for each State and Territory, 2020-21

LGA	State/ Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)(a)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Campbelltown	New South Wales	0.394	19.7%	25.5%	\$55,060	\$60,483
Melton	Victoria	0.403	20.9%	26.0%	\$54,943	\$61,627
Weipa	Queensland	0.387	50.1%	23.6%	\$91,494	\$93,255
Roxby Downs	South Australia	0.354	56.7%	22.0%	\$103,653	\$106,622
Ashburton	Western Australia	0.372	55.5%	22.0%	\$105,655	\$104,461
Brighton	Tasmania	0.377	14.7%	24.3%	\$52,058	\$55,554
Palmerston	Northern Territory	0.360	30.6%	23.9%	\$69,983	\$74,918
ACT(b)	Australian Capital Territory	0.419	35.1%	28.9%	\$71,093	\$83,003

a. Proportion of earners in each LGA whose income is in the range of the top quartile, as calculated at the national level.

b. The Australian Capital Territory has no separate local governments.

Local government areas with the highest Gini coefficients for each State and Territory, 2020-21

LGA	State/ Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile) (a)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Gwydir	New South Wales	0.910	12.5%	42.0%	\$38,552	\$37,600
West Wimmera	Victoria	0.617	17.5%	36.2%	\$43,521	\$52,946
Blackall Tambo	Queensland	0.668	18.0%	35.6%	\$50,201	\$53,056
Cleve	South Australia	0.841	12.8%	38.0%	\$39,313	\$37,616
Cottesloe	Western Australia	0.781	46.4%	70.3%	\$82,773	\$281,593
Break O'Day	Tasmania	0.517	11.6%	33.0%	\$33,773	\$43,819
West Arnhem	Northern Territory	0.482	24.2%	29.0%	\$46,865	\$58,583
ACT(b)	Australian Capital Territory	0.419	35.1%	28.9%	\$71,093	\$83,003

a. Proportion of earners in each LGA whose income is in the range of the top quartile, as calculated at the national level.

b. The Australian Capital Territory has no separate local governments.

Migrants

In this release, 'migrants' refers to people who have arrived in Australia since January 2000, and includes permanent migrants that have become Australian citizens during this period.

In 2020-21, 3.7 million migrants who lodged an individual tax return generated \$253.0 billion in total personal income.

Most migrants were permanent migrants (65.4% or 2.4 million people) who generated \$180.9 billion (71.5%) of total migrant income.

- \$118.7 billion (46.9%) was reported by permanent skilled migrants (1.4 million people)
- \$40.6 billion (16.0%) was reported by permanent family migrants (696,800 people)
- \$15.5 billion (6.1%) was reported by other permanent migrants (206,800 people)
- \$6.1 billion (2.4%) was reported by permanent humanitarian migrants (140,800 people)

Over a third (33.5% or 1.3 million people) were temporary migrants generating \$68.2 billion

(26.9%) of total migrant income.

Total income by visa group, 2020-21

Visa group	Earners (persons)	Total income (\$)
Permanent	2,445,000	180,946,133,300
Permanent Skilled	1,400,600	118,688,811,100
Permanent Family	696,800	40,571,496,000
Permanent Humanitarian	140,800	6,139,961,800
Permanent Other	206,800	15,545,864,500
Provisional	85,200	3,754,378,100
Australian Citizen	41,800	3,886,479,900
NZ Citizen (subclass 444)	503,400	35,823,163,000
Temporary	1,251,600	68,151,222,200
Temporary Skilled	77,600	7,772,840,200
Temporary Student	268,000	7,343,783,400
Temporary Working Holiday Maker	52,000	1,740,304,400
Temporary Other	43,500	1,979,028,200
Bridging visas	221,900	9,737,725,000
Total	3,738,400	252,983,835,400

Note: Some visa records had missing information and therefore do not contribute to visa category sub-totals.

Across all visa groups, the majority (over 70%) received employee income as their main source of income.

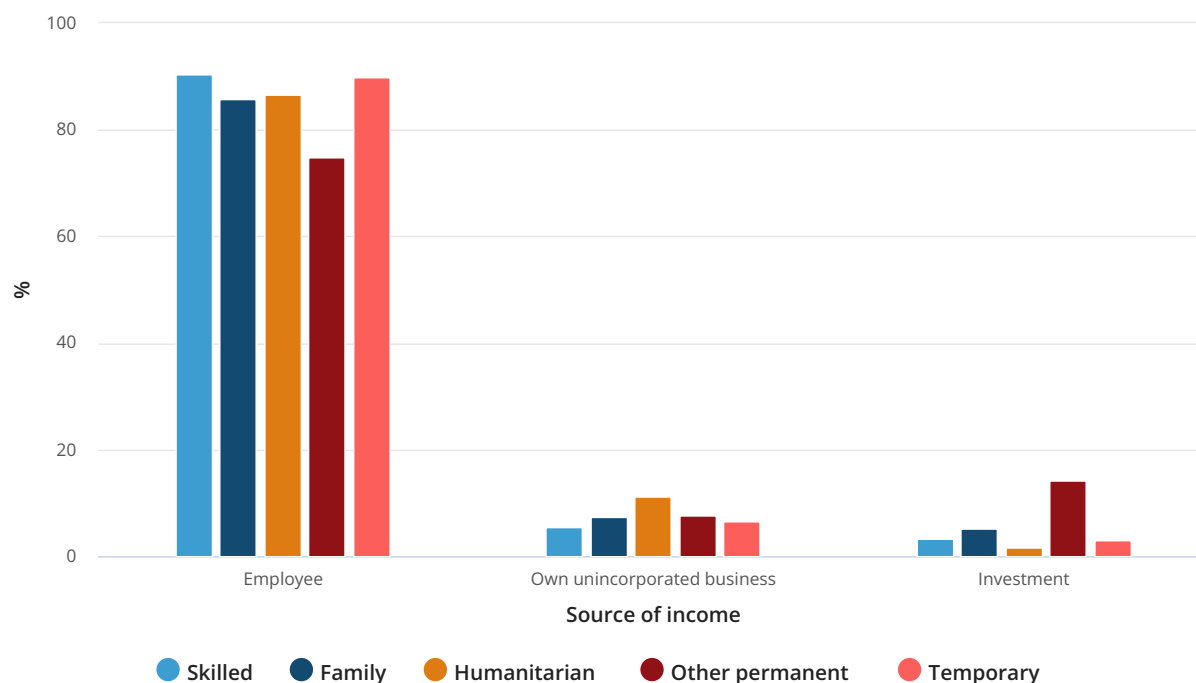
Of total income:

- skilled migrants had the highest proportion of employee income (90.4%)
- humanitarian migrants had the highest proportion of own unincorporated business income (11.1%)
- other permanent migrants had the highest proportion of investment income (14.3%)

For temporary migrants, of their total income:

- 90.0% was employee income
- 6.5% was own unincorporated business income
- 2.9% was investment income

Graph 3: Sources of personal income by visa group, 2020-21



Note: These percentages do not add to 100 as total income also includes superannuation and annuities income and other income.

Data downloads

Table 1 - Total income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2016-17 to 2020-21

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[956.79 KB]

Table 2 - Total income distribution by geography, 2020-21

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[557.42 KB]

Table 3 - Employee income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2016-17 to 2020-21

[!\[\]\(cead67df4d82d6c83effe4f8699a7d8f_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[\[1.03 MB\]](#)

Table 4 - Employee income, earners and summary statistics by age group, sex and geography, 2016-17 to 2020-21

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[\[1.43 MB\]](#)

Table 5 - Investment income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2016-17 to 2020-21

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[\[967.24 KB\]](#)

Table 6 - Own unincorporated business income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2016-17 to 2020-21

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[\[994.37 KB\]](#)

Table 7 - Superannuation income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2016-17 to 2020-21

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[\[960.23 KB\]](#)

Table 8 - Summary statistics by Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, 2011-12 to 2020-21

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Table 9 - Migrants, Total income by arrival group, 2017-18 to 2020-21

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[\[1.24 MB\]](#)

Table 10 - Migrants, Employee income by arrival group , 2017-18 to 2020-21

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Table 11 - Migrants, Investment income by arrival group, 2017-18 to 2020-21

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Table 12 - Migrants, Own unincorporated business income, 2017-18 to 2020-21

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All data cubes

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6524.0.55.002.

Methodology

[Personal Income in Australia methodology, 2020-21 financial year](#)